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TAGS: PEPR, EG, IS, US, XF
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REVIEW: SADAT SHOCKED AT ISRAEL'S STRIKE ON IRAQ BUT REMAINS COMMITTED TO PEACE PROCESS
HIGHLIGHTS. CAIRO JUNE 11 PAPERS' LEAD STORY IS PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATEMENT TO JAPANESE INTERVIEWER OF HIS SHOCK AT ISRAEL'S ATTACK ON IRAQ, WHICH HE SAID "RETURNS US TO THE OLD ERA" BEFORE THE PEACE PROCESS. IN THIS FIRST
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PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE MATTER SADAT ALSO STRESSED THAT EGYPT REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE PEACE PROCESS, EVEN THOUGH ISRAEL'S CONDUCT PLACES AN UNNECESSARILY HEAVY BURDEN ON EGYPT. BEGIN'S LETTER TO SADAT REPORTEDLY JUSTIFIED ISRAEL'S AIR STRIKE AS AN ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE. YESTERDAY, EGYPTIAN CABINET JOINED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, MFA PRESIDENCY, ETC. IN DENOUNCING ISRAEL'S ACTIONS AGAINST IRAQ. MINDEF ABU GHAZALA IS REPORTED AS SAYING FRANCE AND EGYPT HAVE SIGNED CONTRACT FOR 15 MIRAGE-5 AIRCRAFT. AKHBAR REPORTS PERES TRIP TO CAIRO HAS BEEN CANCELLED. END HIGHLIGHTS.

1. SADAT. AHRAM'S FRONT PAGE LEADS WITH SADAT'S INTERVIEW WITH JAPANESE TELEVISION, IN WHICH

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PRESIDENT SAID HE WAS SHOCKED BY THE NEWS OF ISRAEL'S RAID ON IRAQ AND STRESSED THAT BEGIN HAD NOT MENTIONED HIS INTENTIONS DURING SHARM EL-SHEIKH MEETING. SADAT CHARACTERIZED THE STRIKE AS A THROW-BACK TO THE ERA BEFORE THE PRESENT PEACE PROCESS HAD BEGUN.
"DESPITE ISRAEL'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THIS ACTION IS PREVENTIVE", HE SAID, "IT MEANS A REVERSAL, A RETURN TO THE OLD VIEWS THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DISCARDED AFTER THE PEACE PROCESS". (FBIS NC 102336). SADAT IS, NEVERTHELESS QUOTED AS STATING THAT EGYPT REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE PEACE PROCESS, WHICH HE TERMED THE ONLY ESTABLISHED FACT AMONG THE VARIABLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE ADDED THAT ISRAEL'S CONDUCT PLACES A BURDEN AND A CHALLENGE ON EGYPT, BUT THAT "WE MUST TRY OUR UTMOST TO REGAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE PEACE PROCESS."
2. BEGIN LETTER. BEGIN'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT SADAT IS REPORTED BY PRESS AS EXPLAINING IN DETAIL THE SECURITY AND POLITICAL REASONS LEADING ISRAEL TO DESTROY
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THE TAMMOUZ REACTOR. BEGIN ALSO REPORTEDLY WROTE THAT ISRAEL CAN RECONCILE ITSELF MORE EASILY TO ITS PEACE TREATY CONCESSIONS NOW THAT IT IS RELIEVED OF SECURITY CONCERNS SUCH AS THE IRAQI THREAT.
3. CABINET. AKHBAR AND AHRAM REPORT CABINET'S UNANIMOUS CONDEMNATION YESTERDAY OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAQ. CABINET MEMBERS ALSO NOTED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO BEGIN, AT SHARM EL-SHEIKH, THAT ESCALATION OF TENSIONS IN THE AREA ONLY BENEFITS SOVIETS IN THE LONG RUN.
4. OTHER NEWS.
--PRESS REPORTS THAT THREE ALLEGED "AGENTS IN THE PAY OF LIBYA" WILL APPEAR JUNE 21 BEFORE EGYPT'S SUPREME MILITARY COURT IN ALEXANDRIA. AMONG THE CHARGES ALLEGED ARE ESPIONAGE AND PLANNING SABOTAGE. (FBIS NC 101612).
--DEPUTY NDP LEADER, DR. MUSTAFA KHALIL, HAS DENIED REPORTS THAT HE WILL ASSUME LEADERSHIP OF AN OPPOSITION WING OF THE NDP.
--IN ADDRESSING GENEVA ILO CONVENTION, EGYPT'S MINISTER OF MANPOWER AND TRAINING (SAAD MOHAMMED AHMED) REPORTEDLY REITERATED EGYPT'S REJECTION OF ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT POLICY IN OCCUPIED ARAB LANDS AND CALLED UPON ILO TO INTENSIFY ITS AID TO ARAB WORKERS THERE.
--IN EDITORIALS, AHRAM MAINTAINS THAT IRAQ RAID SHOWS THAT ISRAEL SEEKS TO HINDER ARAB DEVELOPMENT IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL FIELDS. AKHBAR'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF MUSA SABRI, SPECULATES ABOUT POSSIBLE ELECTORAL MOTIVES BEHIND BEGIN'S DECISION TO ATTACK IRAQI FACILITY AND ADVISES THE U.S. TO DO MORE THAN RESPOND VER-

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RALLY. SABRI CONTINUES THAT PRESENT SITUATION IS A
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TEST OF U.S. CREDIBILITY IN THE EYES OF ARABS. OTHER-
WISE, HE ASKS, HOW COULD THE U.S. BE BELIEVED CAPABLE
OF CHALLENGING SOVIET TERRORISM, IF IT CANNOT DO SO WITH
ISRAELI TERRORISM? WINDT
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